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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 21, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK CRAWFORD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

IN GOD WE TRUST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. Good morning, my colleagues.

Like most of you, I have taken so many things around this wonderful Capitol for granted. And this beautiful statement, "In God We Trust," unfortunately for me has been one of them. It has not really struck me like the pledge of allegiance to the flag or the "Star Spangled Banner" or so many other things.

But I think that now is the time that we really need God to guide us to do

the right and the moral thing. And the reason we have to do it is because we're dealing with something that is basic to all religions and faiths and this is our responsibility to make certain that we balance our budget, do what is fiscally necessary for our great Nation to survive. But also to do it in such a way that the poor and the vulnerable, who have nothing to do with the crisis that we face, are not hurt.

So I guess this is what we're talking about when we say "In God We Trust."

But God works through us. We are the tools. We have the responsibility of the missionaries. We don't have lobbyists that come down to say protect those people. And I guess this is one of the reasons why this saying here is a constant reminder to us that even though we're carried away with our ability to create statutes, that we respect our court system and the Supreme Court, in the final analysis it's the higher authority of morality that should be guiding all of us.

Recently, I called upon religious leaders to help us in this guidance, to make the right decisions—Christians, Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Mormons, Jews, and gentiles. And I was so pleased that a long and dear friend named Jim Wallis—he's a Lutheran pastor, was an adviser to the President, and just yesterday he brought in a group of ministers to help the President to make the moral decision as he struggles so hard to make the proper decision as it affects our budget and how we're going to reduce our deficit.

But the things that he had cited, like Matthews, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," what it is, is that whatever you have done to assist a poor person or those who are not as strong physically and financially as you and I that you really did this, in a sense, for Jesus because you have done the right thing.

And then he goes on to have something that sounds like statutes when it

says: Woe to those who enact unjust statutes and who write oppressive decrees—oppressive decrees—depriving the needy of justice and robbing poor people of their rights.

Is health care a right? Is Social Security a right? Is decent housing, education, the pursuit of happiness—is all of this a right? And does this permeate the entire budget and every decision that we're trying to make?

Well, in these statements that he made, we have the Torah that says the same thing: If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land, we have a responsibility. The Koran indicates: Believe in Allah and his messengers and spend on charity.

And so my brothers and sisters, it seems to me that now is the time for us to really get in touch with the Gang of Six because it seems like nobody in the House of Representatives has any clue as to what ultimately the President and his advisers will decide. Certainly the Senate doesn't know what we will decide.

But somehow we should include not just the question of revenue, not just the question of trillions of dollars to be cut, but in the course of these negotiations to think of the lesser of our brothers and sisters. Remember that it is a part of our very lives in saying "in God we trust" and to know that you just can't cut services without losing jobs.

In other words, when you have people who are jobless, homeless, who lost their savings, these are God's children and they need hope for the future.

So thank you for once again giving me this opportunity. And what words could better express what I've been trying to say, and that is, Mr. Speaker, "in God we trust."

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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